DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 176 157 CG 013 758

AUTHOR Heritage, Jeannette
TITLE Survey of Drug and Alcohol Usage At Middle Tennessee State University.
PUB DATE 29 Mar 79
NOTE 23p.; Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the Southeastern Psychological Association (25th, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 28-31, 1979); Best copy available

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Alcoholic Beverages; *College Housing; *College Students; Drinking; *Drug Abuse; Fraternities; Higher Education; Marihuana; *Smoking; Sororities; *Student Behavior

ABSTRACT

An ad hoc committee assessed the level and type of drug usage on the Middle Tennessee State University campus. The sample of almost 1600 undergraduates was consistent with the total student body profile. Greek membership tended to depress drug usage but to increase alcohol consumption, particularly for males. Students who lived off-campus were more likely to use drugs and alcohol and tended not to show sex differences in usage. On-campus students and students living at home shared more traditional behaviors. Freshmen were more likely to smoke marijuana, and seniors were more likely to smoke tobacco. Tobacco smoking showed no sex differences, but males were more likely than females to smoke marijuana. Males were more likely to have driven--or been arrested--after drug or alcohol usage. The school studied is religiously conservative with the majority of students from small towns and rural areas, which may cause some variance with other universities. The instrument, however, could be used in studying other campuses. Drug and alcohol usage at MTSU does not appear to be a significant factor in students' lives. (Author/LS)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED176157

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SURVEY OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL USAGE AT MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Jeannette Heritage, Ph.D.
SEPA Convention
March 29, 1979

CG013758

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Jeannette Heritage
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

In the summer of 1977 Dr. M. G. Scarlett, Pres. of MTSU appointed an Ad Hoc committee to study drug use and abuse in the university community. This committee consisted of Dr. Robert LaLance, V-Pres. student affairs, Dr. Jeannette Heritage, Asso. Prof. of Psy., Judy Smith, Dean of Women, Richard Hawk, counseling center, and a student representative. The charge to the committee contained a directive to assess the current level of drug usage and to make recommendations to the President concerning the possibility of drug education programs. The committee decided the proper starting point was the development of a survey instrument that could be used with modifications with students, staff and faculty. Using materials principally from the University of Florida a tentative form was derived. In order to refine the instrument a pilot study was done during the summer term 1977 on approximately 200 students. The results of this study were then used to further refine the questionnaire.

It was decided to attempt to obtain a representative sample of 2000 students Fall, 1977. Using the master schedule of the university,classes were designated to be used in the study. Professors were contacted and arrangements made for menbers of the committee to administer the questionnaire during October, 1977. Classes were selected to reflect general education requirements, majors, and specialties. Almost 1600 completed questionnaires were obtained. Table 1 shows the distribution of students by classification.

Table 1

	N	%
Freshmen	785	50.7
Sophomores	312	20.1
Juniors	235	15.0
Seniors	223	14.2

The large number of freshmen may be the result of larger freshmen classes, the presence of freshmen in upper level courses, or freshmen may habe a greater tendency to attend class.

The division by sex is shown in Table 2. The university has a total population of 49% males and 51% females.

Table 2

	N	%
Males	733	47.0
Females	824	53.0

The distribution of Greeks was somewhat higher than the general population. MTSU has a Greek population of about 11% with 10% of women belonging to sororities and 12% of men being in fraternities.

Table 3

	Greeks		Non-Greeks	
	N	%	N	%
	216	14.1	1333	85.9
Males	124	57.5	604	45.2
Females	92	42.5	729	54.8

This overrepresentation of Greeks in our collected sample may reflect a greater tendency to attend classes or may be a result of the sampling process.

Students at MTSU reported that 46% of fathers and 63% of their mothers did not drink alcohol but 85% of their friends in high school did. Less than 20% of the students responding said they did not use alcohol.

Senior's fathers were more likely to not use alcohol (56%) than other classifications (45%).

Non-Greek's fathers were less likely (26%) to use alcohol than Greeks (35.6%).

Seniors living on-campus had fathers more likely not to drink (62%).

Greeks living at home place a majority of their fathers (55%) in the rarely use alcohol category.

Again mothers of seniors (74%) and mothers of non-Greeks (64.7%) were less likely to use alcohol. Mothers of seniors living on-campus was the highest group (79.5%) not using alcohol while Greek mothers not using alcohol was 77.5%.

Table 4
Alcohol Usage by Student

	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Yes	908	58.9	489	67.5
No	296	19.2	107	14.8
Rarely	337	21.9	128	17.7
	418	51.2		
	189	23.2		
	209	25.6		

Table 5
Did Friends in High School Use Alcohol?

	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Yes	658	90.5	659	80.4
No	69	9.5	161	19.6

Females were more likely to have friends that did not use alcohol.

Seniors were less likely (78%) than Freshmen (88%) to have friends that used alcohol.

Students living at home were more likely to have had non-drinking high school friends.

Table 6

		on-campus		off-campus		home	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
yes	1316	734	86.3	352	86.5	230	79.6
no	231	117	13.7	55	13.5	59	20.4

Male, non-Greeks were more likely to have high school friends who used alcohol (90.5%).

Table 7
Non-Greeks

		Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	725	55.0	378	63.4	347	48.1
No	280	21.2	98	16.4	182	25.2
Rarely	313	23.7	120	20.1	193	26.7

Greek membership appears to produce a decrease in the negative response to alcohol usage to 5.6% for males and 7.7% for females.

Senior males appear to increase alcohol usage (71.9%) but females are decreased (48.5%).

Table 8

At what age did you first drink

			Male		Female	
			N	%	N	%
under 10	68	5.3	48	7.6	20	3.1
10-14	205	16.1	131	20.8	74	11.5
15-17	755	59.4	364	57.9	391	60.8
18-20	224	17.6	79	12.6	145	22.6
over 21	20	1.6	7	1.1	13	2.0
				49.4		50.6

Most students had their first drink between the ages of 15 and 17.

When looking at classification and first drink there is a progression in age.

Table 9

	Freshmen		Sophomores		Juniors		Seniors	
68	26	4.1	24	9.4	12	6.0	6	3.2
205	133	21.1	32	12.5	21	10.4	19	10.2
756	411	65.3	149	58.4	103	51.2	93	49.7
223	53	8.4	50	19.6	58	28.9	62	33.2
20	6	1.0	0	0	7	3.5	7	3.7

It appears students are experiencing first drinks at a younger age.

More Greek females (35.2%) have their first drink after 18 than non-Greek females (22.9%).

Students living off-campus tend to have had their first drink under 18 years of age.

Males tend to drink earlier than females. 52.5% of senior females had their first drink after 18.

Senior Greeks are more likely (43.2%) to have had their first drink after 18 than senior non-Greeks (34.9%).

40.8% of students prefered mixed drinks with 22.5% perferring beer. Female Greeks show an ever greater preference for mixed drinks (59.3%) than beer (5.8%). But male Greeks prefer beer (33.3%) over mixed drinks (23.9%).

Table 10

	Male	Female
Beer	35.9%	9.5%
Mixed drinks	26.5%	54.7%

Most students drink less than once a week.

Table 11

			Male		Female	
			N	%	N	%
less-.once week	623	49.7	235	37.8	388	61.4
1 time a week	169	13.5	98	15.8	71	11.2
2 times a week	197	15.7	110	17.7	87	13.8
3 times a week	138	11.0	85	13.7	53	8.4
4 times a week	127	10.1	94	15.1	33	5.2

Most students appear to drink for a combination of reasons.

Table 12

Reasons for drinking alcoholic beverages

	N	%
to relax	146	11.6
to have fun	162	12.9
to enjoy taste	225	17.9
for escape	17	1.3
to get drunk	53	4.2
it's expected	27	2.1
combination of above	530	42.1
other	100	7.9

The majority of students do not drink alone.

Table 13

Drink Alone

			Male		Female	
			N	%	N	%
Never	882	69.9	358	57.4	524	82.1
Sometimes	347	27.5	237	38.0	110	17.2
Alot	33	2.6	29	4.6	4	0.6

More males than females engaged in solitary drinking.

Table 14

Alcohol Related Behaviors

	Yes		No	
	N	%	N	%
Drive a car after drinking	774	59.8	521	40.2
Had a hangover	623	47.7	683	52.3
Been drinking while driving	542	41.6	762	58.4
Driving after drinking too much	334	25.6	972	74.4
Been nauseated from drinking	499	38.2	806	61.8
Missed classes because of hangover	192	14.7	1115	85.3
Cut class after drinking	97	7.3	1211	92.7
Gone to class after drinking	154	11.8	1153	88.2
Been criticized by others for drinking	187	14.3	1117	85.7
Thought you might have a drinking prob.	56	4.3	1250	95.7
Gotten into a fight after drinking	75	5.7	1231	94.3
Damaged property after drinking	83	6.4	1214	93.6
Received a lower grade because drinking too much	44	3.4	1249	96.6
Been arrested for DWI	23	1.8	1274	98.2
Been in trouble with the las because of drinking	43	3.3	1256	96.7

60% of the students who drink admitted driving a car after drinking and 25% admitted driving after drinking too much. Almost one-half of the students (47.7%) have had a hangover and 11.8% of students have gone to class after drinking.

Students were asked if they smoked tobacco.

Table 1S

			Fresh.		Soph.		Juniors		Seniors	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	437	28.7	209	27.2	91	29.7	57	24.7	79	36.9
No	1084	71.3	560	72.8	215	70.3	174	75.3	135	63.1

The percent of seniors smoking is more than the other classifications.

Residency appeared to affect smoking with off-campus students smoking more.

Table 2S

			on-campus		off-campus		home	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	437	28.7	276	27.1	141	35.0	70	24.6
No	1085	71.3	608	72.9	262	65.0	215	75.4

When combining residency and classification, seniors are more likely to smoke.

Off-campus

			Fresh.		Soph.		Juniors		Seniors	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	140	34.8	36	28.1	29	32.2	26	28.6	49	52.
No	262	65.2	92	71.9	61	67.8	65	71.4	44	47.

Males and females were not different in use of tobacco but amount of tobacco use did show a sex difference.

Table 3S
How Much Do You Smoke

			Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Less than a pack a day	282	68.0	114	58.5	168	76.4
More than a pack a day	134	32.0	81	41.5	52	23.6

Students were asked if they smoked marijuana.

Table 4S

			Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	450	29.9	282	39.9	168	21.1
No	1053	70.1	425	60.1	628	78.9

Residency also showed a difference in student smoking.

Table 5S

			On-campus		Off-campus		Home	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	450	29.9	223	27.2	168	42.1	57	20.1
No	1053	70.1	596	72.8	231	57.9	226	79.9

Off-campus living showed an increase in marijuana use.

Comparison on sex, marijuana, and Greek membership showed female Greek less likely (11.2%) to smoke marijuana.

On-campus females were slightly less likely (19.8%) to smoke marijuana.

Off-campus residency again showed an increased use in marijuana.

Table 6S

	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Yes	168	42.1	120	46.5	48	34.0
No	231	57.9	138	53.5	93	66.0

Living at home appears to depress marijuana use.

Table 7S

	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Yes	57	20.2	38	28.4	19	12.8
No	225	79.8	96	71.6	129	87.2

Less of our students (28.7%) smoke tobacco than marijuana (29.9%).

About one-fifth of females smoke marijuana and about two-fifths of males.

The students were asked if they used regularly or occasionally any other drug? 10.2% of the population said yes.

Table #1D

	N	%
yes	159	10.2
no	1333	85.5
no response	67	4.3

Divided by sex, the yes answers were composed of 60% male and 40% female.

Table #2D

percent by row

	N	%
M	96	60.4
F	63	39.6

Of the total population, 13.8% of the males surveyed said they used regularly or occasionally other drugs and 7.9% of the females.

Table #3D

percent by column

	N	%
males	96	13.8
females	63	7.9

Students who used drugs were asked where they lived. The largest percentage was in the off-campus group.

Table #4D

while at school, where do you live

	N	%
on-campus	73	8.9
off-campus	64	16.5
home	21	7.4

When asked about where they had their first experience with drugs, students who answered fell into the first two categories of at home or at a friend's house. Females were more likely (37.9%) than males (13.2%) to have their first drug experience at home. However, the friend's house was the most popular place.

Table #5D

	males		females	
	N	%	N	%
at home	5	13.2	11	37.9
friend's house	33	86.8	18	62.1

Students were asked where they had their first experience with drugs. When compared on Greek membership the relationship was significant.

Table #6D

			Greeks		Non-Greeks	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Home	26	9.2	2	6.7	24	9.5
Friend's house	98	34.8	7	23.3	91	36.1
Party	53	18.8	4	13.3	49	19.4
In auto	49	17.4	4	13.3	45	17.9
Other	56	19.9	13	43.3	43	17.1
	282		30	10.6		89.4

Table #7 D

Students were asked at what age they first used drugs. There was a significant relationship between age and university classification.

	Freshmen		Sophomores		Juniors		Seniors	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
under 10	2	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-14	37	19.4	11	13.7	12	18.5	8	12.1
15-17	132	69.1	44	55.0	29	44.6	21	31.8
18-21	16	8.4	25	31.3	20	30.8	33	50.0
over 21	4	2.1	0	0.	4	6.2	4	6.1
	191	47.5	80	19.9	65	16.2	66	16.4

Students were asked if they used stimulants (uppers, amphetamines, bennies, etc.) 6.8% of the students said they did.

Table #8D

Stimulant Use

	N	%
yes	106	6.8
no	839	53.8
no response	615	39.4

Table #9D

Stimulant use by sex

	N	%
males	66	7.0
females	40	4.2

Comparing place of residency and stimulant usage showed the pattern of off-campus residency with a higher percentage of users.

Table #10D

Residency and stimulant use

	N	%
on-campus	42	8.1
off-campus	47	18.5
home	16	9.4

Students were asked if they used cocaine. 5.8% of the surveyed students said they used cocaine.

Table #11D

Use of cocaine

	N	%
yes	91	5.8
no	857	54.9
no response	612	39.2

Table #12D

Cocaine use by sex

	N	%
males	65	6.9
females	26	2.7

Residency showed the familiar pattern of off-campus increases in drug usage but also a decrease (4.7%) for those living at home.

Table #13D

Residency and Cocaine Use

	N	%
on-campus	37	7.1
off-campus	46	18.0
home	8	4.7

Students were asked if they used depressants (barbiturates, sopors, red birds, yellow jackets, blue angels, etc.) 5.1% answered yes.

Table #14D

Depressant Use

	N	%
yes	79	5.1
no	867	55.6
no response	613	39.3

Table #15D

Depressant Use by Sex

	N	%
male	51	5.4
female	28	3.0

Residency showed the now familiar pattern and thus will not be repeated in the tables.

Students were asked if they used narcotics (morphine, heroin, codeine, demerol, etc.) Only 2.2% of the students said they used narcotics.

Table #16D

Use of narcotics

	N	%
yes	34	2.2
no	912	58.5
no response	614	39.4

Table #17D

Narcotic usage by sex

	N	%
males	22	2.3
females	12	1.3

Narcotic usage was compared with Greek membership. Greeks appeared to be significantly lower at 1% than the non-Greeks at 2.7%.

Table #18D

Greek Membership and Narcotic Use

	N	%
yes	9	[illegible]
no	25	[illegible]

Residency and narcotic use was not different.

Students were asked if they used tranquilizers (Librium, valium, Equcinil, etc.) 8.3% of the total population use tranquilizers.

Table #19D

Use of Tranquilizers

	N	%
yes	129	8.3
no	815	52.2
no response	616	39.5

Residency again was a significant factor with the pattern being similar to other drug usage. There was no significant difference between males and females on this question.

Students were asked if they used hallucinogens (LSD, peyote, mescaline, etc.) 4.1% of the total sample said they used hallucinogens.

Table #20D

Use of Hallucinogens

	N	%
yes	64	4.1
no	877	56.2
no response	619	39.7

Table #21D

Hallucinogen Use by Sex

	N	%
males	41	4.4
females	23	2.4

Residency showed the already established pattern.

Students were asked why they used drugs. There was no significant difference between males and females but classification and reason was significant at the .02 level.

Table #22 D

Classification and Why do you use drugs

	Freshmen		Sophomores		Juniors		Seniors	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1. to relax	20	2.5	12	3.8	11	4.7	10	4.5
2. to have fun	19	2.4	7	2.2	7	3.0	8	3.6
3. for escape	3	.4	3	1.0	3	1.3	0	0.0
4. to get high	61	7.8	22	7.1	9	3.8	13	5.8
5. it's expected	1	.1	5	1.6	2	.9	1	.4
6. combination	62	7.8	26	8.3	21	8.9	37	16.5
7. other	30	3.8	8	2.6	10	4.3	5	2.2
8. no responses	590	75.1	229	73.4	172	73.2	150	67.0
	786		312		235		224	

Students were asked if while a student at MTSU, or during the past 12 months had they ever driven a car while on drugs. 14.6% of the sample said they had driven a car while on drugs.

Table #23 D

Driven a car while on drugs

	N	%
yes	228	14.6
no	1094	70.2
no response	237	15.2

There was a sex difference in the response. Males showed better than a 2:1 response over females.

Table #24 D

	N	%
male	158	12.0
female	70	5.3

Residency continues to show a significant pattern.

In answer to the question while a student at MTSU, or during the past 12 months, have you ever been smoking dope while driving, 21.4% of the students answered yes.

Table #25D

Been smoking dope while driving

	N	%
yes	334	21.4
no	989	63.4
no response	237	15.2

Sex differences are again evident on this question.

Table #26D

	N	%
male	218	16.5
female	116	8.8

In response to the question while a student at MTSU, or during the past 12 months, have you ever driven after getting high on drugs, 17.8% of the students checked yes.

Table #27D

Driven after getting high on drugs

	N	%
yes	278	17.8
no	1045	67.0
no response	237	15.2

Sex difference continues to run approximately 2 males to each female answering yes.

Table #28D

Sex differences

	N	%
male	179	13.5
female	99	7.5

Residency is a significant factor with 19.8% of those on-campus, 27.3% of students off-campus, and 14.6% of those living at home checked yes.

Students were asked if they missed class while on drugs. 3.1% said they had missed class.

Table #29D

Missed class while on drugs

	N	%
yes	49	3.1
no	1273	81.6
no response	238	15.3

Table #30D

Sex and missed class

	N	%
male	32	2.4
female	17	1.3

Classification appears to effect missing class while on drugs.

Table #31D

Classification & missed class

	N	%
Freshmen	13	2
Sophomores	14	5.3
Juniors	11	5.7
Seniors	11	5.6

Students were asked if they had gone to class while on drugs. 9.1% said they had gone to class on drugs.

Table #32D

Gone to class while on drugs

	N	%
yes	142	9.1
no	1179	75.6
no response	239	15.3

Sex differences were evident with male 3 times as likely to have gone to class under the influence of drugs.

Table #33 D

Sex and gone to class on drugs

	N	%
male	103	16.3
female	39	5.7

Residency is again significant.

Students were asked if they have been criticized by others for using drugs and 5.1% said they had been criticized.

Table #34 D

Been criticized by others for using drugs

	N	%
yes	79	5.1
no	1242	79.6
no response	239	15.3

Males were twice as likely to be criticized for using drugs.

Table #35 D

Sex and being criticized

	N	%
male	53	8.4
female	26	3.8

Students were asked if they thought they might have a drug problem. Only 12 students, 8 males and 4 females answered yes. This was not a significant relationship. However, when company classification thought you might have a drug problem and living on-campus, it was significant at .001.

Table 36D

Classification, on-campus and thought have drug problem

	N	%
Fr.	1	0.2
Soph.	0	0.0
Jr.	1	1.2
Sr.	5	7.0

Four freshman males indicated that they might have a drug problem but not freshman females indicated a problem. This was significant at the .02 level.

Students were asked if they had received a lower grade due to the use of drugs. 24 students indicated they had received a lower grade because of drugs.

Table #37 D

Classification and received a lower grade due to drugs.

	N	%
Fr.	13	2.0
Soph.	1	0.4
Jr.	2	1.0
Sr.	8	4.1

This was again evident when classified grade and on-campus residency was compared

Table #38 D

Classification, lower grade, on-campus

	N	%
Fr.	7	1.6
Soph.	0	0.0
Jr.	0	0.0
Sr.	5	7.0

In both instances seniors are the group most likely to feel they had received a lower grade because of drug usage.

Students were asked if they had been arrested for any related offenses. 25 students indicated they had been arrested for drug related offense.

Table #39 D

Arrested for drug related offenses

	N	%
yes	25	1.6
no	1294	82.9
no responses	241	15.4

The significant relationship is between the sexes.

Table #40 D

Sex and arrested for drug related offenses

	N	%
male	21	3.3
female	4	.6

Students were asked if they had been in trouble with the law because of drugs and 30 students said they had.

Table #41 D

In trouble with the law because of drugs.

	N	%
yes	30	1.9
no	1289	82.6
no response	241	15.4

The male/female relationship is particularly evident on this question.

Table #42 D

Sex and trouble with the law

	N	%
male	27	4.3
female	3	0.4

Greek membership shows up on this question with Greeks showing a higher percentage.

Table #43 D

Greek membership and trouble with the law

	N	%
yes	8	4.5
no	21	1.8

These were all male Greeks.

Students were asked if while a student at MTSU or during the past 12 months have you ever overdosed. Ten students indicated they had.

When comparing Greek membership, overdosed and off-campus, 5 students, 3 Greeks and 2 non-Greek living off-campus indicated they had overdosed. Perhaps it is significant that half (5) of the total number of students who had overdosed lived off-campus.